

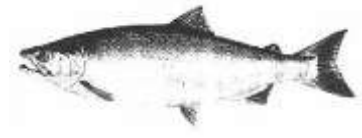
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #40

The purpose of this news release is to provide an update on the VFDA pink salmon fishery, and to announce a commercial purse seine fishery for the Eastern, Northern, Northwestern, and Southeastern districts. All other fisheries remain as previously announced.

SEINE FISHERIES: An aerial survey of the Eastern, Northern, Unakwik, Coghill, and Northwestern districts was flown yesterday. Wild stock escapement indices are tracking ahead of anticipated numbers in these districts, and support expanded area for tomorrow's purse seine fishery. ADF&G sampling of pink salmon harvested in Valdez Arm on July 11 resulted in an average weight of 2.94 pounds. Final harvest numbers for the July 15 fishery in the Eastern and Southeastern districts are unavailable at the time of this announcement; however, it is estimated that at least 2.3 million pink salmon were harvested in the Eastern and Southeastern districts using this average weight. ADF&G sampling of CPF harvest from Valdez Arm on July 12 resulted in an estimated sex ratio of 57% female.

VFDA reports improved run entry into Port Valdez and has recommended a commercial fishery in portions of Port Valdez and Valdez Arm. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods will be based on consideration for VFDA broodstock collection progress, harvest results from the July 17 fishery, and wild stock escapement indices.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 17. **Waters in Port Valdez east of 146° 30.62' W. longitude will be closed to commercial fishing during this period. All regulatory closed waters (including anadromous stream closures) of the Eastern District will be in effect until further notice unless specified otherwise in future news releases.**

Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) Galena Bay: east of a line from 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (2) Jack Bay: south and east of a line from 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (3) Sawmill Bay: north of a line from 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, excluding the Perry Island Subdistrict and Cannery Creek Hatchery Escapement Exclusion Zone (HEEZ) within the CCH SHA, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 17. The CCH HEEZ consists of the waters of the CCH SHA north and east of a line from 61° 00.97' N., 147° 32.62' W. southward to a point on the shore at 61° 00.44' N., 147° 31.50' W. **All regulatory closed waters (including anadromous stream closures) of the Northern District will be in effect until further notice.**

Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are also closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) Siwash Bay: west of a line from 60°58.26' N. lat., 147°37.32' W. long. to 60°56.96' N. lat., 147°36.02' W. long.;
- (2) Jonah Bay: west of a line from 61°01.17' N. lat., 147°35.07' W. long. to 61°00.40' N. lat., 147°35.93' W. long.;

SHTF marker coordinates are available in the Cordova ADF&G office, and have been provided to area processors, VFDA and PWSAC for distribution to fishery participants.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 17. **All regulatory closed waters (including anadromous stream closures) of the Northwestern District will be in effect until further notice.**

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 17. **All regulatory closed waters (including anadromous stream closures) of the Southeastern District will be in effect until further notice.**

Please refer to Prince William Sound News Release #26 from Thursday, June 27 for details regarding Prince William Sound anadromous stream closures. Electronic copies of the list and associated map detailing these updated regulatory closed waters are available at the following web address under the Prince William Sound Anadromous Waters Closures heading:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.salmon#/maps>

Copies of the list and map are also available in the Cordova ADF&G office.

Please refer to the ADF&G 2012-2015 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound booklet for regulations regarding commercial salmon fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area. This booklet is available in the Cordova ADF&G office and at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/PWSSalmon-2012-2015.pdf>

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur by 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 17.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

Announcement recordings are available for **gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 267-2843.**

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.main> (Copper River homepage) or

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure that they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.